

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

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CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1443

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 4468

GUATEMALA PASS ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, HO

SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS ON GSP PRODUCTS LIST

REF: (A) STATE 219437

(B) TEGUCIGALPA 4449

(C) STATE 242715

1. MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OCTOBER 14 PRESENTED RESPONSE TO REFTEL (A) WHICH LISTS PRODUCTS FOR WHICH REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST INCLUSION IN GSP PERFORMANCES. HONDURAN PRESENTATION STRAIGHTFORWARD WITH STATISTICAL ANALYSIS (FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM A-92). END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER EXAMINING REFTEL (A) MINISTRY OF ECONOMY RESPONDED WITH UNDATED PAPER LISTING SEVERAL TROPICAL AND MINERAL PRODUCTS INCLUDING EXPORT STATISTICAL SUMMARY FROM 1969 THROUGH 1974. TROPICAL PRODUCTS LISTED: CITRUS FRUITS, UNCLASSIFIED

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PINEAPPLE, PULP AND PUREE OF FRUITS, PINE RESIN FACTIONS,

ESSENTIAL OILS, WOODEN CIGAR AND JEWELRY BOXES, AND OIL FROM COCONUT AND AFRICAN PALM. MINERAL PRODUCTS LISTED: LEAD, ZINC, CADMIUM AND SILVER IN VARIOUS COMBINATIONS OF CONCENTRATES. TOTAL VALUE OF LISTED HONDURAN EXPORTS IN 1974 APPROXIMATELY \$13.3 MILLION OR 12.5 PERCENT OF TOTAL HONDURAN EXPORTS TO THE U.S.A.

3. THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY PRESENTATION MAKES SEVERAL POINTS. FIRST, THAT ALTHOUGH THE TOTAL VALUE OF THESE EXPORTS IS NOT HIGH IT HAS AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON THE TRADE BALANCE ESPECIALLY SINCE HONDURAS EXPORTS HAVE NOT HAD A CONSTANT RHYTHM OF GROWTH. SECONDLY, IN VIEW OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GSP THE MENTIONED PRODUCTS SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED BECAUSE EXCLUSION COULD CONSTITUTE A STAGNATION OF EXPORTS BECAUSE OF TARIFF BARRIER. THIRDLY, CONSIDERING THAT HONDURAS PRODUCTION IS RELATIVELY SMALL, FOR WHICH REASON IT DOES NOT BELIEVE ITS EXPORTS WILL CAUSE DISTORTIONS IN THE U.S. MARKET, HONDURAS FULLY EXPECTS THAT HONDURAS WILL BENEFIT FROM THE U.S. PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM. THE U.S. IS THE PRINCIPAL MARKET FOR HONDURAN EXPORTS FOR REASONS OF GEOGRAPHY AND PRICES. FOR THE REASONS CITED, HONDURAS LOOKS FORWARD TO THE INCLUSION OF THE CITED PRODUCTS IN THE PREFERENTIAL SCHEME. FINALLY, IT IS NOTED THAT OTHER PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF OBJECTIONS REFTEL (A) INCLUDE SOME WHICH ARE OF MINOR IMPORTANCE TO HONDURAS AT THE MOMENT, BUT WHICH IN A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS COULD REPRESENT POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASED HONDURAN PRODUCTION IN THOSE PRODUCTS.

4. THE ABOVE DISCUSSION WAS FORWARDED BY THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY TO THE HONDURAN ECONOMIC COUNSELOR IN WASHINGTON, MARIO MARTIN. THE DEPARTMENT MAY BE APPROACHED BY MINISTER SAN MARTIN CONCERNING THIS HONDURAN INTEREST DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON REFTEL (B).

5. HONDURAN VIEWS ON SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION (SCCN) REFTEL (C) CAN BEST BE OBTAINED DIRECTLY BY DEPARTMENT FROM MINECON SAN MARTIN.
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